

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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SENT TO: Ambassador ROME 853

PRIORITY

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ELITE EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR

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The following text of message to be delivered to Prime Minister

Fanfani:

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My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

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I have instructed my Ambassador to deliver to you urgently the

4-13-88 text of a public statement which I intend to make later today at 1900 hours Washington time. You will see from it that we have now come into the possession of irrefutable evidence that the Soviets have secretly introduced offensive nuclear weapons into Cuba, and that certain of these may already be operational.

I have decided that the grave threat created by this development to the security of this hemisphere, and indeed of the entire free world, calls for certain measures which are set forth in my speech. The Soviet action may well be linked to certain broader objectives such as Berlin or the question of our overseas bases and nuclear deployments of such bases. While believing the analogy between them and the Cuban situation to be false, I have the problem very much in mind. If you have any thoughts on this, I know you will feel free to communicate them to me.

rafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

G - Mr. U. Alexis Johnson

references:

S/S - Mr. Little

EUR - Mr. Tyler

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I am also writing personally to Chairman Khrushchev in order to leave him under no illusion as to the danger of his present course, ~~and expressing my~~  
~~willingness to discuss with him the possibility of resuming the~~ but also expressing my hope that we can agree to resume the path of peaceful negotiation.

I am also requesting an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council. I have asked Ambassador Stevenson to present on behalf of the United States a resolution calling for the withdrawal of missile bases and other offensive weapons in Cuba under the supervision of United Nations observers. This would make it possible for the United States to lift its quarantine. I hope that you will instruct your representative in New York to work actively with us and speak forthrightly in support of the above program in the United Nations.

It is of greatest importance that all the members of the Alliance should keep in close touch with each other, and I will do my best to keep you informed as promptly and as fully as possible.

John F. Kennedy

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